

# PER

**TO PERK.** *v. n.* [from *perch*, *Skinner*.] To hold up the head with an affected briskness.  
If you think it a disgrace,  
That Edward's mits thus *perks* it in your face,  
To see a piece of failing flesh and blood,  
Let the modest matrons of the town  
Come here in crowds, and stare the strumpet down. *Pope*.  
**TO PERK.** *v. a.* To dress; to prank.  
'Tis better to be lowly born,  
And range with humble livers in content,  
Than to be *perk'd* up in a glit'ring grief,  
And wear a golden sorrow. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*  
**PERK.** *adj.* Pert; brisk; airy. Obsolete.  
My ragged ronts  
Wont in the wind, and wag their wriggle tails,  
Peek as a peacock, but nought avails. *Spenser*.  
**PERILOUS.** *adj.* [from *perilous*.] Dangerous; full of hazard.  
A *perilous* passage lies,  
Where many marenmaids haunt, making false melodies. *Spenser's Fairy Queen*.  
Late he *perk'd*  
In Phædræ's fleet bark over the *perilous* shard. *Pa. Queen*.  
**PERMACY.** *n. f.* A little Turkish boot. *Diët*.  
**PERMANENCE.** *n. f.* [from *permanent*.] Duration; continuance.  
**PERMANENT.** *adj.* [from *permanent*.] Duration; continuance; continuance in the same state; lastingness.  
Salt, they say, is the basis of solidity and *permanency* in compound bodies, without which the other four elements might be variously blended together, but would remain imcompact. *Boyle*.  
Shall I dispute whether there be any such material being that hath such a *permanence* or fixedness in being. *Hale*.  
From the *permanency* and immutability of nature hitherto, they argued its *permanency* and immutability for the future. *Barnet's Theory of the Earth*.  
Such a punctum to our conceptions is almost equivalent to *permanency* and rest. *Bentley*.  
**PERMANENT.** *adj.* [from *permanent*, *Fr.* *permanent*, *Lat.*] Durable; not decaying; unchanged.  
If the authority of the maker do prove unchangeableness in the laws which God hath made, then must all laws which he hath made be necessarily forever *permanent*, though they be but of circumstance only. *Hooker*, b. iii. f. 10.  
That eternal duration should be at once, is utterly uncomprehensible, and that one *permanent* instant should be commensurate or rather equal to all successions of ages. *More*.  
Pure and unchang'd, and needing no defence  
From fins, as did my frailer innocence;  
Their joy sincere, and with no more sorrow mixt,  
Eternity stands *permanent* and fixt. *Dryden*.  
**PERMANENTLY.** *adv.* [from *permanent*.] Durably; lastingly.  
It does, like a compact or consistent body, deny to mingle *permanently* with the contiguous liquor. *Boyle*.  
**PERMANSON.** *n. f.* [from *permaneo*, *Lat.*] Continuance.  
Although we allow that hares may exchange their sex sometimes, yet not in that vicissitude it is presumed; from female unto male, and from male to female again, and so in a circle without a *permanson* in either. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
**PERMEABLE.** *adj.* [from *permeo*, *Lat.*] Such as may be pass'd through.  
The pores of a bladder are not easily *permeable* by air. *Boyle*.  
**TO PERMEATE.** *v. a.* [from *permeo*, *Lat.*] To pass through.  
This heat evaporates and elevates the water of the abyss, pervading not only the fibres, but the very bodies of the strata, *permeating* the interstices of the sand or other matter whereof they consist. *Woodward's Natural History*.  
**PERMEANT.** *adj.* [from *permeans*, *Lat.*] Passing through.  
It entereth not the veins, but taketh leave of the *permeant* parts at the mouths of the mefericks. *Brown*.  
**PERMEATION.** *n. f.* [from *permeate*.] The act of passing through.  
**PERMISSIBLE.** *adj.* [from *permissee*, *Lat.*] Such as may be mingled.  
**PERMISSIBLE.** *adj.* [from *permisus*, *Lat.*] What may be permitted.  
**PERMISSION.** *n. f.* [from *permisio*, *Fr.* *permisus*, *Lat.*] Allowance; grant of liberty.  
With thy *permission* then, and thus forewarn'd,  
The willinget I go. *Milton*.  
You have given me your *permission* for this address, and encouraged me by your perusal and approbation. *Dryden*.  
**PERMISSIVE.** *adj.* [from *permittio*, *Lat.*]  
1. Granting liberty, not favour; not hindering, though not approving.  
We bid this be done,  
When evil deeds have their *permissive* pass,  
And not the punishment. *Shakefp. Measure for Measure*.  
Hypocrisy, the only evil that walks  
Invincible, except to God alone  
By his *permissive* will, through heav'n and earth. *Milton*.  
2. Granted; suffered without hindrance; not authorized or favoured.  
If this doth authorize usury, which before was but *permissive*,

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it is better to mitigate usury by declaration, than to suffer it to rage by connivance. *Bacon's Essays*.  
Thus I embolden'd spake, and freedom us'd  
Permissive, and acceptance found. *Milton's Par. Lost*.  
Clad  
With what *permissive* glory since his fall  
Was left him, or false glitter. *Milton's Par. Lost*.  
**PERMISSIVELY.** *adv.* [from *permisive*.] By bare allowance; without hindrance.  
As to a war for the propagation of the christian faith, I would be glad to hear spoken concerning the lawfulness, not only *permissively*, but whether it be not obligatory to christian princes to design it. *Bacon's Holy War*.  
**PERMISSION.** *n. f.* [from *permisus*, *Lat.*] The act of mixing.  
**TO PERMIT.** *v. a.* [from *permittio*, *Lat.* *permettre*, *Fr.*]  
1. To allow without command.  
What things God doth neither command nor forbid, the same he *permitteth* with approbation either to be done or left undone. *Hooker*, b. ii. f. 4.  
2. To suffer, without authorizing or approving.  
3. To allow; to suffer.  
Women keep silence in the churches; for it is not *permitted* unto them to speak. *1 Corinthians xiv. 34*.  
Ye gliding ghosts, *permit* me to relate  
The mystick wonders of your silent state. *Dryden*.  
Age oppresses us by the same degrees that it instructs us, and *permits* not that our mortal members, which are frozen with our years, should retain the vigour of our youth. *Dryden*.  
We should not *permit* an allowed, possible, great and weighty good to slip out of our thoughts, without leaving any relish, any desire of itself there. *Locke*.  
After men have acquired as much as the laws *permit* them, they have nothing to do but to take care of the publick. *Swift*.  
4. To give up; to resign.  
Nor love thy life, nor hate; but what thou liv'st,  
Live well; how long, how short, *permit* to heav'n. *Milton*.  
If the course of truth be *permitted* unto itself, it cannot escape many errors. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
To the gods *permit* the rest. *Dryden*.  
What'er can urge ambitious youth to fight,  
She pompously displays before their fight;  
Laws, empire, all *permitted* to the sword. *Dryden*.  
Let us not aggravate our sorrows,  
But to the gods *permit* th' event of things. *Addison's Cato*.  
**PERMIT.** *n. f.* A written permission from an officer for transporting of goods from place to place; showing the duty on them to have been paid.  
**PERMITTANCE.** *n. f.* [from *permitter*.] Allowance; forbearance of opposition; permission. A bad word.  
When this system of air comes, by divine *permittance*, to be corrupted by poisonous acrimonious steams, what havoc is made in all living creatures? *Derham's Physico-Theology*.  
**PERMIXTION.** *n. f.* [from *permixtus*, *Lat.*] The act of mingling; the state of being mingled.  
They fell into the opposite extremity of one nature in Christ, the divine and human natures in Christ, in their conceits, by *permixtion* and confusion of substances, and of properties growing into one upon their adunation. *Brewster*.  
**PERMUTATION.** *n. f.* [from *permutatio*, *Fr.* *permutatio*, *Lat.*] Exchange of one for another.  
A *permutation* of number is frequent in languages. *Bentley*.  
Gold and silver, by their rarity, are wonderfully fitted for this use of *permutation* for all sorts of commodities. *Ray*.  
**TO PERMUTE.** *v. a.* [from *permuto*, *Lat.* *permuter*, *Fr.*] To exchange.  
**PERMUTER.** *n. f.* [from *permutant*, *Fr.* from *permutare*.] An exchanger; he who permutes.  
**PERNICIOUS.** *adj.* [from *perniciosus*, *Lat.* *perniciosus*, *Fr.*]  
1. Mischievous in the highest degree; destructive.  
To remove all out of the church, whereto they shew themselves to be sorrowful, would be, as we are persuaded, hurtful, if not *pernicious* thereunto. *Hooker*, b. iv. f. 12.  
I call you fervile ministers,  
That have with two *pernicious* daughters join'd  
Your high engender'd battles, 'gainst a head  
So old and white as this. *Shakefp. King Lear*.  
Let this *pernicious* hour  
Stand ay accursed in the calendar! *Shakefp.*  
2. [From *pernix*, *Latin*.] Quick. An use which I have found only in *Milton*, and which, as it produces an ambiguity, ought not to be imitated.  
Part incentive reed  
Provide, *pernicious* with one touch to fire. *Milton*.  
**PERNICIOUSLY.** *adv.* [from *perniciosus*.] Destructively; mischievously; ruinously.  
Some wilful wits wilfully against their own knowledge, *perniciously* against their own conscience, have openly taught. *Acham's Schoolmaster*.  
All the commons  
Hate him *perniciously*, and wish him  
Ten fathom deep. *Shakefp. Henry VIII.*  
**PERNICIOUSNESS.** *n. f.* [from *perniciosus*.] The quality of being pernicious.  
**PERNICITY.**

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**PERNICITY.** *n. f.* [from *pernix*.] Swiftnefs; celerity.  
Others armed with hard shells, others with prickles, the rest that have no such armature endued with great swiftnefs or *pernicity*. *Ray on the Creation*.  
**PERORATION.** *n. f.* [from *peroratio*, *Lat.*] The conclusion of an oration.  
What means this passionate discourse?  
This *peroration* with such circumstances?  
True woman to the last—my *peroration*  
I come to speak in spite of suffocation. *Shakefp.*  
**TO PERPEND.** *v. a.* [from *perpendo*, *Lat.*] To weigh in the mind; to consider attentively.  
Thus it remains and the remainder thus;  
*Perpend*, my princefs, and give ear. *Shakefp. Hamlet*.  
Consider the different conceits of men, and duly *perpend* the imperfection of their discoveries. *Brown*.  
**PERPENDER.** *n. f.* [from *perpendere*, *Fr.*] A coping stone.  
**PERPENDICULAR.** *n. f.* [from *perpendiculus*, *Lat.*] Any thing hanging down by a straight line. *Diët*.  
**PERPENDICULAR.** *adj.* [from *perpendiculus*, *Fr.* *perpendicularis*, *Latin*.]  
1. Crossing any other line at right angles. Of two lines, if one be perpendicular, the other is perpendicular too.  
If in a line oblique their atoms rove,  
Or in a *perpendicular* they move;  
If some advance not slower in their race,  
And some more swift, how could they be entangl'd. *Blackmore*.  
The angle of incidence, is that angle, which the line, described by the incident ray, contains with the *perpendicular* to the reflecting or refracting surface at the point of incidence. *Newton's Opticks*.  
2. Cutting the horizon at right angles.  
Some define the *perpendicular* altitude of the highest mountains to be four miles. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
**PERPENDICULAR.** *n. f.* A line crossing the horizon at right angles.  
Though the quantity of water thus rising and falling be nearly constant as to the whole, yet it varies in the several parts of the globe; by reason that the vapours float in the atmosphere, and are not reforded down again in a *perpendicular* upon the same precise tract of land. *Woodward*.  
**PERPENDICULARLY.** *adv.* [from *perpendicular*.]  
1. In such a manner as to cut another line at right angles.  
2. In the direction of a straight line up and down.  
Ten masts attach make not the altitude reach,  
Which thou hast *perpendicularly* fall'n. *Shakefp.*  
Irons refrigerated North and South, not only acquire a directive faculty, but if cooled upright and *perpendicularly*, they will also obtain the same. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
Shoot up an arrow *perpendicularly* from the earth, the arrow will return to your foot again. *More*.  
All weights naturally move *perpendicularly* downward. *Ray*.  
**PERPENDICULARITY.** *n. f.* [from *perpendicular*.] The state of being perpendicular.  
The meeting of two lines is the primary essential mode or difference of an angle; the *perpendicularity* of these lines is the difference of a right angle. *Watts's Logic*.  
**PERPENSION.** *n. f.* [from *perpend*.] Consideration. Not in use.  
Unto reasonable *perpensions* it hath no place in some sciences. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
**TO PERPETRATE.** *v. a.* [from *perpetro*, *Lat.* *perpetrator*, *Fr.*]  
1. To commit; to act. Always in an ill sense.  
Hear of such a crime  
As tragick poets, since the birth of time,  
Ne'er feign'd a thronging audience to amaze;  
But true and *perpetrated* in our days. *Tate's Juvenal*.  
My tender infants or my careful fire,  
These they returning will to death require,  
Will *perpetrate* on them the first design,  
And take the forfeit of their heads for mine. *Dryden*.  
The forest, which in after-times,  
Fierce Romulus, for *perpetrated* crimes,  
A sacred refuge made. *Dryden*.  
2. It is used by *Butler* in a neutral sense, in compliance with his verse, but not properly.  
Success, the mark no mortal wit,  
Or surest hand can always hit;  
For whatso'er we *perpetrate*,  
We do but row, we're steer'd by fate. *Hudibras*.  
**PERPETRATION.** *n. f.* [from *perpetrate*.]  
1. The act of committing a crime.  
A desperate discontented assassin would, after the *perpetration*, have honested a meer private revenge. *Watson*.  
A woman, who lends an ear to a seducer, may be infernally drawn into the *perpetration* of the most violent acts. *Clarissa*.  
2. A bad action.  
The strokes of divine vengeance, or of men's own consciences, always attend injurious *perpetrations*. *King Charles*.  
**PERPETUAL.** *adj.* [from *perpetuus*, *Fr.* *perpetuus*, *Latin*.]  
1. Never ceasing; eternal with respect to futurity.

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Mine is a love, which must *perpetual* be,  
If you can be so just as I am true. *Dryden*.  
2. Continual; uninterrupted; perennial.  
Within those banks rivers now  
Stream, and *perpetual* draw their humid train. *Milton*.  
By the muscular motion and *perpetual* flux of the liquids, a great part of them is thrown out of the body. *Arbutnot*.  
3. Perpetual screw. A screw which acts against the teeth of a wheel, and continues its action without end.  
A *perpetual* screw hath the motion of a wheel and the force of a screw, being both infinite. *Wilkin's Math. Magick*.  
**PERPETUALLY.** *adv.* [from *perpetuus*.] Constantly; continually; incessantly.  
This verse is every where founding the very thing in your ears; yet the numbers are *perpetually* varied, so that the same sounds are never repeated twice. *Dryden*.  
In passing from them to great distances, doth it not grow denser and denser *perpetually*; and thereby cause the gravity of those great bodies towards one another. *Newton's Opticks*.  
The bible and common prayer book in the vulgar tongue, being *perpetually* read in churches, have proved a kind of standard for language, especially to the common people. *Swift*.  
**TO PERPETUATE.** *v. a.* [from *perpetuo*, *Fr.* *perpetuo*, *Lat.*]  
1. To make perpetual; to preserve from extinction; to eternalize.  
Medals, that are at present only mere curiosities, may be of use in the ordinary commerce of life, and at the same time *perpetuate* the glories of her majesty's reign. *Addison*.  
Man cannot devise any other method so likely to preserve and *perpetuate* the knowledge and belief of a revelation, so necessary to mankind. *Forbes*.  
2. To continue without cessation or intermission.  
What is it, but a continued *perpetuated* voice from heaven, refunding for ever in our ears? to give men no rest in their sins, no quiet from Christ's importunity, 'till they awake from their lethargick sleep and arise from so mortiferous a state, and permit him to give them life. *Hammond*.  
**PERPETUATION.** *n. f.* [from *perpetuare*.] The act of making perpetual; incessant continuance.  
Nourishing hair upon the moles of the face, is the *perpetuation* of a very ancient custom. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.  
**PERPETUITY.** *n. f.* [from *perpetuus*, *Fr.* *perpetuus*, *Lat.*]  
1. Duration to all futurity.  
For men to alter those laws, which God for *perpetuity* hath established, were presumption most intolerable. *Hooker*.  
Yet am I better  
Than one that's sick o' th' gout, since he had rather  
Groan so in *perpetuity*, than be cur'd  
By the fure phylitian, death. *Shakefp. Cymbeline*.  
Time as long again  
Would be fill'd up with our thanks;  
And yet we should, for *perpetuity*,  
Go hence in debt. *Shakefp. Winter's Tale*.  
Nothing wanted to his noble and heroic intentions, but only to give *perpetuity* to that which was in his time so happily established. *Bacon*.  
2. Exemption from intermission or cessation.  
A cycle or period begins again as often as it ends, and so obtains a *perpetuity*. *Holder*.  
3. Something of which there is no end.  
A morsel of pottage for a birth-right, a present repast for a *perpetuity*. *South's Sermons*.  
The ennobling property of the pleasure, that accrues to a man from religion, is, that he that has the property, may be also sure of the *perpetuity*. *South's Sermons*.  
The laws of God as well as of the land  
Abhor a *perpetuity* should stand;  
Estates have wings, and hang in fortune's power. *Pope*.  
**TO PERPLEX.** *v. a.* [from *perplexus*, *Latin*.]  
1. To disturb with doubtful notions; to entangle; to make anxious; to tease with suspense or ambiguity; to distract; to embarrass; to puzzle.  
Being greatly *perplexed* in his mind, he determined to go into Persia. *Mac. iii. 31*.  
Themselves with doubts they day and night *perplex*. *Denn*.  
He *perplexes* the minds of the fair sex with nice speculations of philosophy, when he should engage their hearts. *Dryden*.  
We can distinguish no general truths, or at least shall be apt to *perplex* the mind. *Locke*.  
2. To make intricate; to involve; to complicate.  
Their way  
Lies through the *perplex'd* paths of this drear wood. *Milt*.  
We both are involv'd  
In the same intricate *perplex'd* distress. *Addison's Cato*.  
What was thought obscure, *perplexed*, and too hard for our weak parts, will lie open to the understanding in a fair view. *Locke*.  
3. To plague; to torment; to vex. A sense not proper.  
Chloe's the wonder of her sex,  
'Tis well her heart is tender,  
How might such killing eyes *perplex*,  
With virtue to defend her. *Granville*.  
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**PERPLEX.**